

# Believe | Mark 5:21-43

## Introduction:

In our passage today, Mark uses a “sandwich technique” in order to show a comparison of two stories.

- The “bread” involves a story about a man’s dying daughter.
  - It appears at the beginning and end of the passage.
- In between, we find a story about a woman with chronic disease.

Both are in desperate situations and in need of Jesus, and so they plead for Jesus’ help.

**Over the Last few weeks** we found Jesus to be the Lord over the fear of nature and the demonic... We learned that HE was enough!

**The same is true here.** Except this time it’s something that is hitting home in all of our lives right now.

**Illustration:** Right now people all across the world have become crippled by Covid-19, but not specifically because they caught it, but just by the possibility of getting it.

- A federal emergency hotline for people in emotional distress registered a more than 1,000 percent increase in April compared with the same time last year.
- Talkspace co-founder and CEO Oren Frank says, “people are really afraid.”
  - His online therapy company Talkspace reported a 65 percent jump in clients since mid-February.
- EMS in Milwaukee report a 54% spike in drug overdose and a 80% increase in Suicide attempts since Covid started.

- Now with that said, Wisconsin has reported over 44 thousand cases and 841 Covid related deaths. (12 of those in Waupaca county)

People are doing everything under the sun to avoid this virus.

- Some are simply staying home as much as possible.
- Some are constantly social distancing.
- Mask are being required in almost all of the big box office stores.
- Hand sanitizer everywhere
- Plexiglass at every checkout
- And the list goes on and on...

**People are crippled by just the possibility of sickness.**

- And don't get me wrong... Covid-19 isn't something I'm waiting in line for...
- I received a message from a church planter in Weyauwega on Friday afternoon sharing the battle he had with Covid over the last 2 weeks.
  - He faced serious issues physically and emotionally.

**But here's what I'm getting at...**

**Here's what I'm hoping this text will do to you today:**

- Don't kneel in fear to Covid-19...
- kneel in fear to the one who is Lord over all sickness.

In **Mark 5:21-43**, just as always, we find what we need: **We find Jesus as Lord over sickness and death.**

My title: Believe - Have faith in God!

**Transition:** Before we jump into the text, Let me set the stage with the background of the people involved:

*First:* **The woman with the issue of blood:**

- This was an outcast woman who had been suffering a disastrous hemorrhage that rendered her **ceremonially unclean** in Jewish society.
  - This meant that she was a transmitter of uncleanness to all who came into contact with her...
    - ⇒ If she had been married she was probably now divorced...
    - ⇒ She was BANNED from worship in the synagogue and temple.
    - ⇒ She would have been ostracized from normal society

**Vs. 26** tells us that her desperate situation had driven her to pursue medical help. (**Vs. 26**- she **suffered many things of many physicians.**)

**The Talmud listed no less than eleven cures for this specific illness.**

- Some were “potions”
- Others were based on made up superstitions
  - **Example-** in one place it says,: ““Take of the gum of Alexandria and the weight of a small silver coin... Let them be bruised together, and given in wine to the Woman that has an issue of blood.
  - If this does not benefit take of Persian onions three pints; boil them in wine, and give her to drink, and say “Arise from thy flux.”
  - If this does not cure her, set her in a place where two ways meet, and let her hold a cup of wine in her right hand, and let someone come behind and frighten her, and say, “Arise from thy flux”
    - **Honestly:** Most of the time I think they were just making excuses to drink wine...

In another place, the Talmud recommended that the afflicted woman carry a piece of corn that had been taken from the droppings of a white she donkey...

This stuff was insane.... And Most likely... this woman had tried almost everything... if not all.... But to no end...

- **Verse 26** goes on to say that she even “Spent all that she had... and she not only DID NOT get BETTER... BUT rather WORSE...”

This lady was BROKEN...

- Cut off from her home,
- Ostracized by society,
- Divorced in her marriage,
- Not a penny left in her checking account
- and to add to it, in declining health...

She was at the bottom

*This was the first person in the story...*

*The second was* **the prominent family of Jairus.**

- Jairus was the leader of the synagogue.
- He was a man of wealth and prestige.



But he was in equal great need: his twelve-year-old daughter was dying.

- She had been the joy of his life.
  - **Luke 8:42** says it was his “only daughter,”
- And now that joy was about to be snuffed out.

Parental love leaves a parent wide open to towering joys and to the deepest sorrow.

- Just the other night I woke up in a puddle of my own sweat and tears as I was having a terribly dream that I had tragically lost Elijah.
- Some of you know what it is like to see a convulsing child and wonder if he was going to make it. We would do anything to save our child.

Jairus probably thought, “Take my life, not hers.”

Jairus and his wife were desolate—at the very bottom.

**Here we see two desperate representations of society:**

- one rich, the other poor;
- one accepted, the other outcast;
- one familial, the other alone—
- both beyond natural help. Both at the bottom

In **Mark 5:21-43** we are going to see 3 encounters.

1<sup>st</sup> Christ and Jairus

2<sup>nd</sup> Christ and the Woman

3<sup>rd</sup> Christ and the Little Girl

These stories can help us mature in our faith and know more of God's power.

# 1. Christ and Jairus | vs. 21-24

**Mark 5:21** “And when Jesus was passed over again by ship unto the other side, much people gathered unto him: and he was nigh unto the sea.”

- **Info:** From what we can tell Jesus is now back at Capernaum.
- He left here a few days before to escape the crowd.
  - He calmed a sea and cast out demons and now he's back.

At this point the crowd was swarming to greet him and see what was going to happen next.

- They were no doubt noisy, jostling, dangerous crowd...
- Scripture never speaks positively about the crowd...

**BUT NOW** they begin to quieten down as the big dogs arrive...

- **Vs. 22** “And, behold, there cometh one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name...”

Jairus had not been known to be friendly toward Jesus.

- Jesus was an outsider and had even been accused of heresy by many.
- That last time he was in the synagogue they were attacking him about the sabbath's use and ended up wanting him dead.

So here comes Jairus, the leader... the crowd is SHOCKED at what he does.

- **Vs. 22** “... and when he saw him, he fell at his feet, <sup>23</sup> And besought him greatly, saying, My little daughter lieth at the point of death: I pray thee, come and lay thy hands on her, that she may be healed; and she shall live.”

Jairus didn't care what the crowd thought...

- ⇒ he didn't care about his reputation anymore...
- ⇒ he didn't care about the Sabbath.

He was desperate...

- He wasn't being a man of great faith... He was a man in great need.
- He just wanted to see his little girl out pain again...

BTW

**Application:** Jairus was like so many of us in our coming to Christ.

- ⇒ It was not his love for Christ that brought him.
- ⇒ It was not what he could do for Christ.
- ⇒ It was his need. It was his desperation and a glimmer of hope.

**Kent Hughs** says, "Despair is commonly the prelude to grace."

Jairus' infant faith was going to bring great rewards...

Vs. 24 records that Jesus immediately set out with Jairus—no hesitation.

- ⇒ "And Jesus went with him; and much people followed him, and thronged him."

It must have been excruciating for Jairus as he and Jesus were slowed down like an ambulance in heavy traffic.

- I'm sure the crowd didn't mean harm... they just didn't want to miss the next healing show...

Then, to Jairus' dismay, everything came to a sudden halt.

## 2. Christ and the Woman | vs. 25-34

There was another needy person there that day... a broken woman...

Look at vs. 27-29 “ When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment. <sup>28</sup> For she said, ‘If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole.’ <sup>29</sup> And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague.”

**The broken woman did her best to escape attention...**

- she didn't want people to know it was her... they would start screaming unclean and make a scene.

She apparently, like so many in her day, believed that sometimes the garments or even the shadow of the godly could bring healing.

- So....as Jesus passed by....she momentarily closed her frail hand about the edge of his cloak, or perhaps one of its four tassels.

In a moment... a moment that lives in her eternal memory..... she felt healing course through her body, and she was whole!

Without a word... Jesus' power completely healed her.

- The same power that he used to make the sea instantly lie flat and to restore the raving demoniac healed her long-standing illness.

Then the world stopped. (Vs. 30)

- Jesus realized that his healing power had gone forth (in fact, he willed it) and began asking repeatedly, “Who touched my garments?”



**Vs. 31** his disciples said: “Thou seest the multitude thronging thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me?”

**At this point Jairus must have been boiling over with impatience...**

- Precious time was being wasted while the seconds of his little girl's life were ticking away...

**He's got to be thinking... “My DAUGHTER is DYING!!! Is doesn't matter who touched you!”**


**Imagine the woman:**

- ⇒ her heart throbbing with joy and fear,
- ⇒ her eyes tearing with emotion.
- ⇒ Christ was calling her to stand before the crowd... “Who touched me”

*You've got to be asking at this point...*

**WHY? Why ask who touched me? Why point her out?**

**It was for her and for Jairus and for some within the crowd—and for us.**

 Jesus wanted point out her imperfect faith...

- At best, the woman's faith was at its core ignorant. (Think about it:)
  - ⇒ She sought a cure that was essentially magic-secured (touching the edge of his robe).
  - ⇒ She had no idea that Jesus would know anything about what she did.
  - ⇒ She had tried some crazy weird stuff already and basically thought... why not?

**Her faith was uninformed, presumptuous, and superstitious, but it was real, and Christ wanted everyone to know that he honored her imperfect faith.**

A truth  
to glee

**Application:** God still does the same thing today.

⇒ Beginning faith is often uninformed and mixed with many errors about, Christ's person, the Incarnation, the Trinity, the Atonement, grace/works, the Scriptures, etc.

⇒ However, such foggy understandings are often the beginning of a deep, informed trust in God.

**We can take courage in this.**

- You don't have to have it all figured out to possess a faith that pleases God.
  - This is why a child can come to Christ.
  - This is why God often saves those who know virtually no theology.

**Note:** This does not minimize deep understanding, which is meant to foster a profound faith. The More I know the MORE faith I have!

**Here's my point:** A faith that pleases God does not belong only to the informed elite.

**The woman's faith was not only ignorant but selfish.**

- She wanted health, but she did not especially care about the Healer.
- This is so typical of beginning faith: we come to him because of some problem, we reach out with a stumbling faith, he touches us, and we go on to love him and trust him with our lives.

~~X~~ There is an interesting point I want to bring out here... Something we can learn from.

- Christ was shoved, pushed, pulled, and thrown by the multitude...but he felt the touch of faith.
- **Augustine** said, “Flesh presses, faith touches.”

In a sea of a million hands, Christ will see the one that is raised in faith.

- Even if its insignificantly small.
- You will not go unnoticed by the master!

So, vs. 33 the girl runs to Jesus feet and tells him her story... She is shaking from the adrenalin from Joy and fear and shock...

Jesus says in vs. 34 —————> “ Daughter...”

- *This shows he was being tender... She must have been unbelievably shaking*
- *only time he calls someone “daughter”.*

He says, “thy faith hath made thee whole...”

- Not your touch
- Not your superstition
- Not magic
- BUT FAITH

Her Faith may have been as small as a mustard seed, BUT Jesus saw it, honored it, and developed it.

Application  
connection

This poor woman represents all of us...

- We are ill

- We have spent our resources trying remedies that do not work... Some of them being ridiculous...
- Christ comes to us from the cross
- We need to touch him BY FAITH

*He text is*

Here's what ~~he~~ is saying to us:

- Do NOT fear that HE will not respond
- Do NOT fear that you are too ignorant
- Do NOT fear that you are too selfish

**FEAR ONLY ONE THING:** That you will let him pass without reaching out in faith to him.

Jairus must have been on cloud 9 at this point... "THIS IS THE GUY I NEED" "It's going to be okay! Lets GO"

And then his earth shatters...

**vs.35** "While he yet spake, there came from the ruler of the synagogue's house certain which said, Thy daughter is dead....why troublest thou the Master any further?"

### 3. Christ and the Little Girl | vs. 34-43

In a terrible second, the growing flame of Jairus' hope was shred to a million pieces ...

- I don't know what he did... but if it was me... I would have been on the floor... I would have fallen as if I were a dead man...

**Vs. 36** “As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, he saith unto the ruler of the synagogue, Be not afraid, only believe.”

We MUST NOT miss what is happening here:

- ⇒ Jairus comes to Jesus with a uninformed, wishful “belief” that Jesus could heal his daughter.
- ⇒ The “belief” or “faith” that this man has is heightened through the experience with the broken woman in vs. 25-34...
- ⇒ NOW, Christ challenged Jairus not believe him for a healing... but for a resurrection! <sup>+o</sup>

**This is a radical call... and a radical development of Jairus’ faith...**

- It is one thing to pray for your child’s healing from a life-threatening disease.
- It’s another thing entirely to stand over her cold body and pray for immediate resurrection.

And Jesus says, “Do not fear, only believe,”

In the Greek this is saying, “Be believing, keep on believing!”

And Jairus did... **Vs. 37** says that Jairus, Jesus, and the “inner ring” of disciples set out for the leader’s home.

**Mark 5:38-40** “And he cometh to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and seeth the tumult(*commotion*), and them that wept and wailed greatly. <sup>39</sup> And when he was come in, he saith unto them, Why make ye this ado, and weep? the damsel is not dead, but sleepeth. <sup>40</sup> And they laughed him to scorn. But when he had put them all out, he

taketh the father and the mother of the damsel, and them that were with him, and entereth in where the damsel was lying.”

pair

What you have here is a group of professional mourners making a scene. This was typical in that day...

Jesus says a phrase that trips some people up: “**she’s not dead, she’s sleeping.**”

- Real death is separation of the soul from God, not the body from the soul.
- That’s the sense that Jesus is saying that her body is but sleeping...

**Vs. 41** says that Jesus “**took the damsel by the hand, and said unto her, Talitha cumi.**”

**Info:** Now at this point our author Mark wasn’t in the room... Peter would actually be his eyewitness for the details of this account.

✱ What Jesus says here is so beautiful that years later Peter preserved for us the Aramaic phrase Jesus used.

“**Jesus took the damsel by the hand** (Which by the way was defiled by death just as the broken woman with the illness.) He took her by the hand and said, “**Talitha Cumi**”...

- We would interpret this today as “**little girl**”.
- The literal interpretation is “**little lamb**”

**Vs. 41** "little girl... I say unto you, arise"

- The first thing she saw was the face of Jesus... then the face of her mother and father.. and then the three amazed apostles.

**What is the Christ like who gives this life?**

- He is all-powerful
- He made the raging sea instantly lay flat with a word
- He cast out a legion of evil spirits with another word
- He healed the outcast broken woman without a word
- He tenderly raised the little girl

He is understanding, lovingly gentle, and inviting.

If God is speaking to you, but you fear that your faith is too ignorant or selfish or small... DO NOT PUT IT OFF! **HE KNOWS EVERY HEART!**

Reach out to him with your faltering touch...

⇒ He's use to healing the unclean.

⇒ He's use to raising the dead to life.

My title for this passage:

→ **Believe**